

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /134 W

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R 310905Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8055

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IN, PK

SUBJ: PEKING VIEWS THE INDO-PAK POW AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: THE PRC AND PAKISTAN APPEAR TO BE WORKING OUT A COMMON STRATEGY ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH. AS THE INDO-PAK POW AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED (AND THE FATE OF THE FINAL 195 RESOLVED), PEKING PROBABLY WILL MOVE TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS WITH INDIA, RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH, AND SUPPORT THE LATTER'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PAKISTANI MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED ARRIVED IN PEKING AUG 30 PRESUMABLY TO CONSULT WITH CHINESE FOLLOWING THE AUG 28 INDO-PAK AGREEMENT ON THE RETURN OF THE PAKISTANI POW'S. AT A BANQUET IN HIS HONOR THE SAME EVENING, CHINESE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHI PENG-FEI SAID THE AGREEMENT HAD CREATED "FAVORABLE CON-
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DITIONS" FOR "A DETENTE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION AND THE NORMALI-

ZATION OF RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED." CHI ALSO USED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SCARCELY VEILED ATTACK ON THE SOVIETS AS "PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WISH TO SEE A DETENTE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION" BECAUSE THEY DESIRE TO "FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS."

2. NCNA ON AUG 29 CARRIED A REPORT ON THE AGREEMENT NOTING IT HAD THE CONCURRENCE OF THE INDIAN, PAKISTAN, AND BANGLADESH GOVERNMENTS. THE NCNA ITEM EMPHASIZED THAT THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD DISCUSS AND SETTLE THE QUESTION OF THE REMAINING 195 POW'S, THAT NO TRIALS WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE PERIOD OF REPATRIATION, AND THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF RECONCILIATION CREATED BY THE REPATRIATIONS WOULD FACILITATE A FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF A MEETING TO SETTLE THIS PROBLEM

3. THE CHINESE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASED THE POW ISSUES APPEARS TO BE APPROACHING A FINAL SETTLEMENT. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT WOULD VIRTUALLY FULFILL THE PRC CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH INDIA (THE FIRST STEP OF WHICH WOULD BE RAISING THEIR EMBASSIES' REPRESENTATION TO AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, RECOGNIZING BANGLADESH, AND SUPPORTING BANGLADESH'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE CHINESE WILL PROCEED WITH THESE STEPS ONLY AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. WHAT IS NOT CLEAR IS WHETHER THE PRC AND PAKISTAN NOW BELIEVE A FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE FATE OF THE REMAINING 195 POW'S AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT SHOULD COME BEFORE ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCILIATORY MOVES BY PEKING TOWARD BANGLADESH AND INDIA. A COMMON STRATEGY ON THIS QUESTION WILL PROBABLY EMERGE FROM AZIZ AHMED'S CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING.
OSBORN

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